



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/676,634

10/01/2003

Luis M. Gomes

5150-82801

7873

7590

08/24/2006

Jeffrey C. Hood

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC

P.O. Box 398

Austin, TX 78767

EXAMINER

AUGUSTINE, NICHOLAS

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2193

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/676,634	<b>Applicant(s)</b> GOMES ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Nicholas M. Augustine	<b>Art Unit</b> 2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 October 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>8/19/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over PerfectXML (<http://www.perfectxml.com/nr/aspnetdebug.pdf>) in view of East Tennessee State University ([http://csciwww.etsu.edu/blair/Using\\_Debugger.htm](http://csciwww.etsu.edu/blair/Using_Debugger.htm)).

Note that the references both teach the same debugging environment from the same development software suite Microsoft Visual Studio .NET, but for purposes of discussion both references are listed above where PerfectXML teaches the main concept of using a debugger in Visual Studio.NET and East Tennessee State University (referred to as ETSU herein) discloses with figures when the user hovers over a variable(s) in the source code a tool tip will be displayed within the use of the debugger.

Also some content pertaining to the immediate application is not depicted in these articles because of its commonness in the art.

As to independent claim 1, PerfectXML teaches a memory medium which stores program instructions implementing a graphical user interface (GUI) for debugging a

Art Unit: 2179

program, wherein, during execution of the program, the program instructions are executable by a processor to perform (PerfectXML, Page 116, Paragraph 3): displaying source code for the program in a first GUI element (PerfectXML, Fig. 7.3); ETSU teaches receiving first user input to the first GUI element indicating an expression in the source code (ETSU, pg. 7); displaying a value of the expression in a tool tip in response to said first user input (ETSU, pg. 7); PerfectXML teaches receiving second user input to the tool tip modifying the displayed value (PerfectXML, pg. 108, par. 3), thereby specifying a new value for the expression (PerfectXML, pg. 108, par. 3); and setting the expression in the program to the new value, wherein the program continues execution in accordance with the new value of the expression (PerfectXML, pg. 108). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of ETSU into the teachings of PerfectXML, because they both disclose the debugging environment of the same software application (Microsoft Visual Studio .NET).

As to independent claim 18, claim 18 differ from claim 1 only in that claim 18 is a method claim whereas; claim 1 is a memory medium claim. Thus, claim 18 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to independent claim 19, claim 19 differ from claim 1 only in that claim 19 is a system claim whereas; claim 1 is a memory medium claim. Thus, claim 19 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to independent claim 20, claim 20 differ from claim 1 only in that claim 20 is a system claim whereas; claim 1 is a memory medium claim. Thus, claim 20 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to independent claim 21, claim 21 differ from claim 1 only in that claim 21 presents that wherein the window is operable to display a value of the indicated expression, wherein the window does not include window title bars or menus (ETSU, page 8); The remaining part of claim 21 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to claims 2-17 and 22-23, note the discussion above PerfectXML in view of ETSU, with respect to their teaching of the same debugging environment from the software product (Microsoft Visual Studio .NET).

As to dependent claim 2, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 1, wherein said receiving first user input to the first GUI element comprises: receiving the first user input from a pointing device (ETSU, page 7 (mouse)).

As to dependent claim 3, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 2, wherein the first user input from a pointing device comprises: a cursor

Art Unit: 2179

associated with the pointing device hovering over the expression (ETSU, page 7) (Although not depicted in this figure, because of the limitations of the 'print screen' function on a keyboard of a PC. It is known in the art that a cursor is associated with a mouse).

As to dependent claim 4, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 1, wherein said wherein said receiving first user input to the first GUI element comprises: receiving the first user input from a keyboard. (PerfectXML, pg. 108) (It is inherent to one of ordinary skill in the art that a development software product makes use of user input through means of a combination of a keyboard, mouse, menus, or the like).

As to dependent claim 5, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 1, wherein said wherein said receiving first user input to the first GUI element comprises: receiving the first user input to a menu. (PerfectXML, pg. 108) (It is inherent to one of ordinary skill in the art that a development software product makes use of user input through means of a combination of a keyboard, mouse, menus, or the like).

As to dependent claim 6, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the tool tip is context sensitive (ETSU, page 7) (It is known in the art that defined variables are context sensitive and since the tool tips context is made up of defined variable(s) it as well would be context sensitive).

As to dependent claim 7, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 6, wherein the tool tip comprises a control corresponding to a data type of the expression, and wherein the data type of the expression comprises at least one of: A string data type; a character data type (ETSU, page 7); a numeric data type (ETSU, page 7); a Boolean data type; and an array data type. (It is recognized and well practiced in the art that programming makes use of string data type, Boolean data type and array data type. It is apparent by the visual representation of the tool tips depicted in the figures of ETSU that they will display any value assigned to an expression or variables in any typical common format.)

As to dependent claim 8, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teaches the memory medium of claim 6, wherein the tool tip is operable to display the value of the expression in a specified format; wherein if the expression comprises integer data, the specified format comprises one or more of: decimal (ETSU, page 7); hexadecimal (ETSU, page 7); octal; binary; and ASCII (ETSU, page 7); and wherein if the expression comprises single or double precision, the specified format comprises one or more of floating point; and scientific notation. (It is recognized and well practiced in the art that programming makes use of octal, binary, single or double precision, one or more of floating point numbers and scientific notation, it is apparent by the visual representation of the tool tips depicted in the figures of ETSU that they will display any value assigned to an expression or variables in any typical common format.)

As to dependent claim 9, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 8, wherein the specified format is specified via a second GUI element in the GUI (PerfectXML, Fig. 7.4, (Type))

As to dependent claim 10, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the tool tip comprises: a first portion, operable to display the value of the expression, wherein the first portion is further operable to receive the second user input modifying the value; and a second portion, operable to display non-editable information related to the expression (ETSU, page 7).

As to dependent claim 11, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 10, wherein the second portion comprises a text indicator, operable to display text (ETSU, page 7).

As to dependent claim 12, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 10, wherein the first portion is further operable to graphically indicate that the value is editable (ETSU, page 7; it is known in the art that editable fields show a blinking cursor awaiting input, so when the user clicks in the field the flashing cursor is presented).

As to dependent claim 13, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the expression comprises a variable (ETSU, page 8).



As to dependent claim 14, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the expression comprises a syntactic expression comprising one or more of: one or more variables (ETSU, page 8 (nStackTop, nValue, nStackArray)); one or more constants; one or more macros; and one or more operators. (For purposes of lack of description in figures and content of ETSU and PerfectXML, it is well known in the art that an expression will comprise one or more of variables, constants, macros, or operators.)

As to dependent claim 15, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the execution of the program is in debugging mode (ETSU, page 1 and 7; (debug controls running the program are depicted in figures).

As to dependent claim 16, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the program instructions are further executable to perform; evaluating the expression to determine the value of the expression (ETSU, page 8; (nStackTop = 1 from the expression '++nStackTop')).

As to dependent claim 17, PerfectXML in view of ETSU the memory medium of claim 1, wherein the program instructions are further executable to perform: dismissing the tool tip based on one or more of: third user input, indicating dismissal of the tool tip (It is well known in the art that when the user takes the mouse away from the object/link (cursor is

Art Unit: 2179

no longer hovering over) that the tool tip goes away); and lapse of a specified time period (Although not depicted in this article because of its commonness it is well known in the art to have the tool tip dismiss itself with a set time, see Microsoft Windows XP operating system for an example, when the user hovers over a tab in the task bar the tool tip is shown).

As to dependent claim 22, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teach, wherein the window is substantially just large enough to display the value of the indicated expression (ETSU, page 8 (nStackTop =1)).

As to dependent claim 23, PerfectXML in view of ETSU teach wherein the window is further operable to display the indicated expression, and wherein the program instructions are further executable to perform: displaying the indicated expression with the value in the window, wherein the window does not include visible boundaries demarcating the displayed expression and value, wherein the window is substantially just large enough to display the indicated expression and the value of the indicated expression (ETSU, page 8).

### ***Conclusion***

- Introduction to Visual C++ Debugging -  
([http://ei.cs.vt.edu/~cs1205/c\\_debug/intro.html](http://ei.cs.vt.edu/~cs1205/c_debug/intro.html)) an overview guide to features within the environment.
- Microsoft Word 2000 – See included figures, which depict a tool tip that accepts user input.
- InfoWorld News – “Gates Casts Visual Studio .Net”  
(<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/02/02/13/020213hngates2.html>) showing a date of arrival.

***Inquires***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas M. Augustine whose telephone number is 571-272-1056. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday: 7:30- 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chanh Nguyen can be reached on 571-272-7772. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



N. Augustine  
8-21-06

Nicholas Augustine  
Examiner: 2179



CHANH D. NGUYEN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER